



News Release from the Royal School of Church Music

MUSICIANS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO GATHER IN CANTERBURY FOR CHURCH MUSIC SUMMER SCHOOL

The unmistakable sound of gospel music, choral works from Bob Chilcott, reflections from composer James MacMillan on the power of music, and daily sung services – these are just some of the activities at the 2008 International Summer School and Conference taking place in Canterbury in August (11th - 17th) which is organised by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). Already 120 delegates from all over the world have reserved their places, but bookings are now being taken for the sessions open to the public.

“This is a veritable feast of church-music making,” says Lindsay Gray, who will be leading his first summer conference as Director of the RSCM. “I am looking forward to the week enormously; it will be my first opportunity to meet RSCM members and musicians from all over the world, and a chance to reflect on some of the issues affecting church music today.”

As well as workshops and daily services at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge and other venues around the town, there is a wide range of seminars including “working relationships between clergy and musicians”, “music for children”, “broadcasting from your church”, and “transforming worship”. Practical workshops range from use of percussion in church and organ improvisation to a chance to conduct the RSCM Millennium Youth Choir, who themselves will give a concert during the conference.

The guest speaker at the conference on Friday 15th is the composer James MacMillan who reflects on the power of music to transform the lives of Christian communities. On Wednesday 13th, Bob Chilcott will lead an opportunity to sing some of his own music including his popular *Little Jazz Mass*, and he stays to direct the conference’s festival service in the cathedral the next day. By contrast, there’s an opportunity to let your hair down and experience the exhilaration of gospel music-making with Ken Burton, MD of the London Adventist Chorale.

Tickets for the open sessions at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge with Bob Chilcott, James MacMillan and Ken Burton (£15) can be purchased from Canterbury Bookings on telephone number 01227 378100, or from the Tourist Information Office in Sun Street, Canterbury. Tickets for the concert by RSCM Millennium Youth Choir (£6) to be held at St Peter’s Methodist Church on Friday 15th August can also be purchased from Canterbury Bookings.

“Although this is a week-long event, we very much hope that people living in the south-east of England would like to come to some of the open sessions, particularly, the Chilcott, MacMillan and gospel events,” says Lindsay Gray. “We’re keen to welcome musicians, whether choristers, guitarists, clergy, and those who simply enjoy church music, to come along and be part of what will be a stimulating and inspiring week.”

Ends

28 July 2008

Notes for Editors.

Full details of the International Summer School and Conference are available online at <http://www.rscm.com/iss>

Journalists are invited to attend at any time during the conference (Monday 11th August – Sunday 17th); there are seminars and workshops throughout. Please contact us (see below) to make the necessary arrangements. The key events are:

Wed 13 th :	14:30	Sing Chilcott with Chilcott (open session)
Thur 14 th :	14:30	Festival Service, in Canterbury Cathedral, directed by Bob Chilcott
Fri 15 th :	14:30	Keynote Address: James MacMillan, composer (open session)
Fri 15 th :	20:15	Concert by RSCM Millennium Youth Choir (MYC)
Sat 16 th :	14:30	Gospel music workshop with Ken Burton (open session)

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an educational charity and promotes the best use of music in worship, church life, and the wider community. The RSCM also publishes music and training resources, and organises courses, short workshops and activities. With over 8,500 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is an international network, supported by over 750 volunteers and small team of staff based throughout the UK.

For further information about the RSCM, go to the website
Photographs for media use are available from the Media & Picture Gallery

www.rscm.com
<http://www.rscm.com/media>

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